



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

CW
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|--|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/706,580 | 11/12/2003 | Richard Farkas | IVI-10005/04 | 6669 |
| 25006 | 7590 | 12/15/2004 | EXAMINER | |
| GIFFORD, KRASS, GROH, SPRINKLE ANDERSON & CITKOWSKI, PC 280 N OLD WOODARD AVE SUITE 400 BIRMINGHAM, MI 48009 | | | LEUBECKER, JOHN P | |
| | | ART UNIT | | PAPER NUMBER |
| | | 3739 | | |
| DATE MAILED: 12/15/2004 | | | | |

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

| | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) |
| | 10/706,580 | FARKAS ET AL. CR |
| | Examiner | Art Unit |
| | John P. Leubecker | 3739 |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 November 2003.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-7 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-7 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 3/3, 3/4, 6/21 2004.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ .
5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) Other: ____ .

Information Disclosure Statement

1. The information disclosure statement filed June 21, 2004 fails to comply with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(3) because it does not include a concise explanation of the relevance, as it is presently understood by the individual designated in 37 CFR 1.56(c) most knowledgeable about the content of the information, of each patent listed that is not in the English language. It has been placed in the application file, but the information referred to therein has not been considered.

Claim Objections

1. Claim 2 is objected to because of the following informalities: in line 4, it appears that the word "from" should be inserted between "radiation" and "one". Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Vannas (U.S. Pat. 2,633,122).

Vannas discloses a housing (17), an elongated lens tube (distal end of 1) having one end secured to the housing and capable of being inserted into a cavity of a body (sized and shaped to be capable of such), a tube lens assembly (5,6), a housing lens assembly (18,19), a source of light radiation (3) and a means for directing radiation from the light source through the tube lens assembly (20,21).

4. Claims 1, 5 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Modell et al. (U.S. Pat. 5,813,987).

Referring mainly to Figure 4, Modell et al. disclose a housing (34), an elongated lens tube (16), a tube lens assembly (42), a housing lens assembly (note lenses in housing 34), a source of light radiation (12) and a means for directing radiation from the light source (100). As to claims 5 and 6, a laser diode is contemplated as a source of illumination (104, col.22, line 15).

5. Claims 1, 5 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Amundson et al. (U.S. Pat. 6,178,346).

Referring mainly to Figure 11A, Amundson et al. disclose a housing (not numbered but inherent structure that encompasses beamsplitter 24 and infrared camera 39), an elongated lens tube (25), tube lens assembly (50,48, Fig.11B), a housing lens assembly (37), a source of light radiation (41) and a means for directing (24). As to claims 5 and 6, the source is a laser diode (col.29, lines 11-13).

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Modell et al.

Although Modell et al. only provides one *example* of 780 nanometers (col.22, line 56) for the infrared light source, Modell et al. also discloses that near IR (which includes 950 nm) is useful in other procedures (col.21, lines 25-28). Since the specific wavelength disclosed by Modell et al. is an example and implies that others were contemplated, and near IR is known to be useful in certain procedures, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have provided 950 nm (near IR) as the wavelength of the light source (104).

Double Patenting

2. The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and, *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

3. Claims 1-7 rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-6 of U.S. Patent No. 6,679,839. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the only difference between the application claims and the patented claims is that claim 1 of the application recites "said lens tube assembly extending substantially the entire length of said lens tube". By definition of an optical relay system, it would inherently follow that in order to relay an image from one end of a tube to another, the optical components must extend substantially the entire length of the tube. However, if not inherent, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have considered such limitation in the combination of elements of the patented claim since optical relay lens systems that extend the entire length of relay distance are notoriously well known and the level of ordinary skill in this art would allow one to draw from conventional knowledge.

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

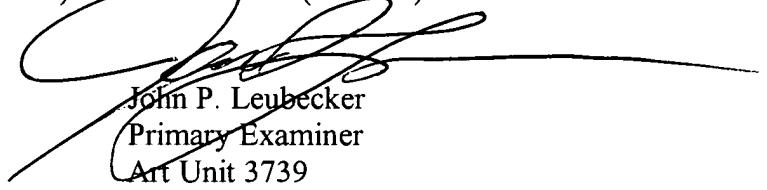
Imaizumi et al. (US 2004/0186351)

Feld et al. (US 2002/0156380)

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John P. Leubecker whose telephone number is (571) 272-4769. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 6:00 AM to 2:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Linda C.M. Dvorak can be reached on (571) 272-4764. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-277-9197 (toll-free).



John P. Leubecker
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3739

jpl